

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 COA-02 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 AF-10 NEA-10 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /183 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, ETRD, EEC, XA

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 15 EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS)

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 5726; B) EC A-363; C) EC A-372

1. SUMMARY: THE OCTOBER 15 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EC) IN LUXEMBOURG FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ANY OF THE ISSUES IT DISCUSSED (THE COUNCIL MET FOR ONE DAY ONLY AND NOT TWO AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED). ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE STATES, THERE WAS A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BUT NO DECISION ON RECIPROCITY. THERE WAS AN INITIAL DISCUSSION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED
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REGIONAL POLICY. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF SUGAR. FISHERIES

POLICY WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE PERM REPS. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED SOME MINOR IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNCIL-EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE STATES. THE COUNCIL'S FIRST AGENDA ITEM WAS A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON OCTOBER 17 WITH THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE STATES (REF A), SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY. THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO APPROVE THE TEXT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT NORGAAARD'S SPEECH FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS' DISCUSSION, THE COUNCIL COULD NOT AGREE ON THE LANGUAGE COVERING RECIPROCITY, AND IT FINALLY DECIDED TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT IT HAD AGREED TO DISAGREE. NORGAAARD WILL THEREFORE PROBABLY SAY THAT THE COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT AND WILL NOT GO BEYOND THE FORMULA USED IN HIS SPEECH IN JULY THAT REVERSE PREFERENCES ARE NOT BEING ASKED OF THE NEGOTIATING PARTNERS (EC BRUSSELS 4255).

3. THE COUNCIL LATER SPENT SEVERAL HOURS DISCUSSING POSSIBLE SPECIAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES WITH SINGLE COMMODITY ECONOMIES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DUTCH, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, BUT THE COUNCIL DID NOT AGREE ON ANY DETAILS. THE DUTCH OPPOSED THE PROPOSAL FOR STABILIZATION MEASURES, ARGUING THAT THEY WOULD CONDEMN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PRODUCERS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS TO REMAIN SO. MOST OF THE OTHER MEMBER STATES FAVOR A PROGRAM FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENTS TO BE COMBINED WITH THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (FED), BUT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON THE FIGURE FOR THE CEILING FOR SUCH A JOINT PROGRAM. THERE WERE DIFFERING VIEWS ON WHAT LDC PERFORMANCE FACTORS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A DETERMINATION OF THE NEED FOR SUPPORT, WITH SOME MEMBER STATES (ESPECIALLY THE FRG) ARGUING FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENT INDICATORS AND OTHER MEMBER STATES FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE COMMODITIES WHICH SHOULD BE COVERED BY SUCH A PROGRAM. THERE WAS SOME DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS REGARDING THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION ON THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS; LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER THORN SAID HE PRESUMED THAT COMMON SENSE ON THE PART OF THE EC WOULD PREVAIL AT THE FINAL STAGE

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OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. REGIONAL POLICY. THIS WAS THE INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE COUNCIL LEVEL ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY REGIONAL POLICY. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS EXCHANGE WAS THE STRONG STATEMENT BY IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD WHO SAID THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED AND WERE ON INADEQUATE BASIS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY

CRITICAL OF THE FAILURE OF THE COMMISSION EXPLICITLY TO REJECT THE CONCEPT OF QUOTAS FOR RECIPIENTS OF REGIONAL POLICY AID. THE STATEMENTS OF OTHER MINISTERS REFLECTED THEIR VIEWS THAT THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS WERE A GOOD BEGINNING, ALTHOUGH MUCH WORK WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, THAT THE COMMUNITY'S REGIONAL POLICY WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT BUT CAN ONLY SUPPLEMENT NATIONAL POLICIES, AND THAT THE GOAL OF THE COMMUNITY REGIONAL POLICY REMAINS TO GET CAPITAL AND LABOR INTO THE POORER REGIONS.

5. SUGAR AND FISHING. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY'S SUGAR POLICY; THE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT "THE TIME WAS NOT OPPORTUNE" FOR SUCH A DISCUSSION. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE TO THE DANISH PAPER ON THE NEED FOR AN EC FISHERIES POLICY (REF B), WITH THE DANES URGING IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A POLICY AND THE UK HOLDING OUT FOR A DELAY UNTIL AFTER THE 1974 LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE; THE MATTER WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.

6. MISCELLANEOUS. NORGAARD ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ALGERIA ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND THAT HE INTENDED TO REPLY BY FORWARDING A COPY OF THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN COPENHAGEN; THERE WAS NO OBJECTION FROM THE OTHER MINISTERS. THERE WAS A BRIEF REPORT BY THE DANES ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND A REPORT BY COMMISSION MEMBER CHEYSSON ON THE PARLIAMENT'S DISCUSSION OF ITS BUDGETARY POWERS (REF C); HOWEVER, THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THESE SUBJECTS. GREENWALD

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